

Friends of Imperial College

Annual General Meeting 3 December 2015 at 18.00

Meeting Room opposite Theatre 1

Sir Alexander Fleming Building, Imperial College

1 Attendees

Committee

Rod Rhys Jones (Chair), John Little (Vice chairman), Bill Blackburn (Treasurer), Alan Grant, Stewart Katz, Katri Yates, Paresh Parmar.

Members

Michael Gore, Paul Lindsay, Travis Spurling, Paul Garwood, Jim Craig-Gray, Mike Drake, Mie Starbuck, Georgi Petkov, Tim Hillyer, Andrew Holmes, Jaana Tarma, Robert Williams, Ziba Norman, William Arthur, Riitta Soininen, Jim Cunningham
Karen Little.

2 Apologies for absence

The Chairman, Roderick Rhys Jones, reported apologies for absence from Rita Leek, Natasha Martineau, Morton Neal, John Sanderson.

3 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last AGM, on 2 December 2014 were approved.

4 Report by the Chairman

Overview

The Chairman reported that over the past year:

- Membership rose from 358 (2013/14) to 385 (2014/15) and is currently (409),
- Donation to the College reduced from £4k to £3k.
- Registration as a charity was successful Charity Commission.
- Enthusiastic support from President and the Vice President.
- Winton Capital Management which has made donations for a number of years is faltering in its support and therefore there will need to be some re-budgeting and finding other donations
- Enthusiastic support from the College for Friend's activities

Events

The Chairman gave an analysis of attendance figures at events based on the following table:

Year	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Number of Event	13	24	21
Members-only events	6	11	8
Ticket sales rose from	1537	1830	2130
Members attending rose	599	842	853
Supper reservations rose	79	135	216
Non members attendance	252	176	330
Members guests	188	313	271

Future

He said that in future Friends would aim to:

- Make links to neighbouring institutions including the museums and colleges
- Raise the profile at College
- Seek wider sponsorship
- Seeking consensus on strategy

He drew attention to the many references to Friends in the College strategy publications.

The Charity

Sarah Waterbury, Vice-President of the College had accepted the invitation of the three trustees of the charity Rod Rhys Jones, John Little, and Bill Blackburn to become a Trustee.

In developing a strategy for Friends she would be very interested in leading an evening group for members to discuss a strategy. The meeting indicated agreement to this proposal.

Travis Spurling asked whether there was an impression that the loss of sponsorship was a result of asking for double the previous year's request. The Chairman said that he had been encouraged by the previous contact at Winton to double the amount of the request. Staff had changed recently.

5 Report by the Hon Treasurer

Summary

The Hon Treasurer Bill Blackburn reported:

- That all bookings were recorded through the website which provided a valuable database tool. Thanks to John Little and Stewart Katz.
- Friends was now a charity, and in a position to submit these figures to the Charity Commission after scrutiny by an independent examiner.

Last year was slightly gloomy and two years ago, recruitment of new admin person had cost money and took time.

Key motion at the previous AGM had been to ask permission to increase charges. We chose not to increase charges in 2014-15.

Further, we had decided not to increase membership subscription charges for 2015-16 but had decided to ask for donations in order to benefit from Gift Aid now that we are a charity.

			STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR 2014-15		6th NOVEMBER 2015	
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT			BALANCE SHEET			
Item	Debit	Credit		This Year	PriorYear	
Deficit Brought Forward	£ 2,920.71		Assets			
Income			Bank Balance	£ 3,566.23	£ 7,671.79	
Operating Income		£ 21,435.47	PayPal Balance	£ 30.00	£ 507.60	
Sponsorship		£ 8,000.00	Cash Account	£ 60.50	£ 172.00	
			Debtors	£ 78.00	£ 134.85	
Expenditure			Members Position	£	£ 2,920.71	
Operating Expenditure	£ 23,061.25			£ 3,734.73	£ 11,406.95	
Summer Party	-		Liabilities			
Adjustment	£ 55.94		Creditors	£ 2,932.16	£ 11,143.04	
Donation to Imperial	£ 3,000.00		Credit Notes	£ 405.00	£ 263.91	
SubTotal	£ 29,037.90	£ 29,435.47	Members Surplus	£	£ 397.57	
				£ 3,734.73	£ 11,406.95	
Members' Surplus carried forward		£ 397.57				
<i>ΔMembers' Surplus/Position</i>		<i>£ 3,318.28</i>				
Note:						
Operating Surplus or Loss						
Operating Income		£ 21,435.47				
Operating Expenditure	£ 23,061.25					
Operating Loss	£ 1,625.78					

The Hon Treasurer noted:

- There was a slight dip in income, because of the cost of additional trips abroad in previous years.
- Video recording events cost £600 each. Winton funded this to the sum of £2,500 as a one-off donation with sufficient funds left to do one more.
- Show of hands indicated that only Rod and John have watched the videos.
- The remaining event to be videoed must be controversial in order to encourage viewers.
- College funds the lecture theatre and technician, which is estimated to cost £1,000 per event.
- An individual Friend made a donation of £500.
- Donation target for the year is £7,000 and to date £2,000 had been donated.

Questions

There were several questions from the floor

Question: My tax return asks what I have donated to.

Answer: John Little answered that it was possible to provide donors with a report on their annual donation.

Question: What are the main costs in processing payments.

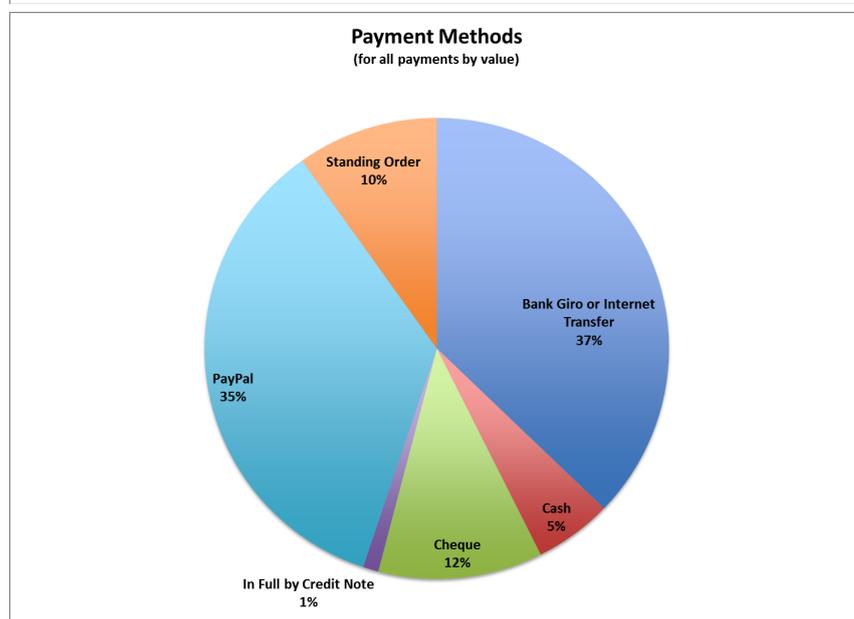
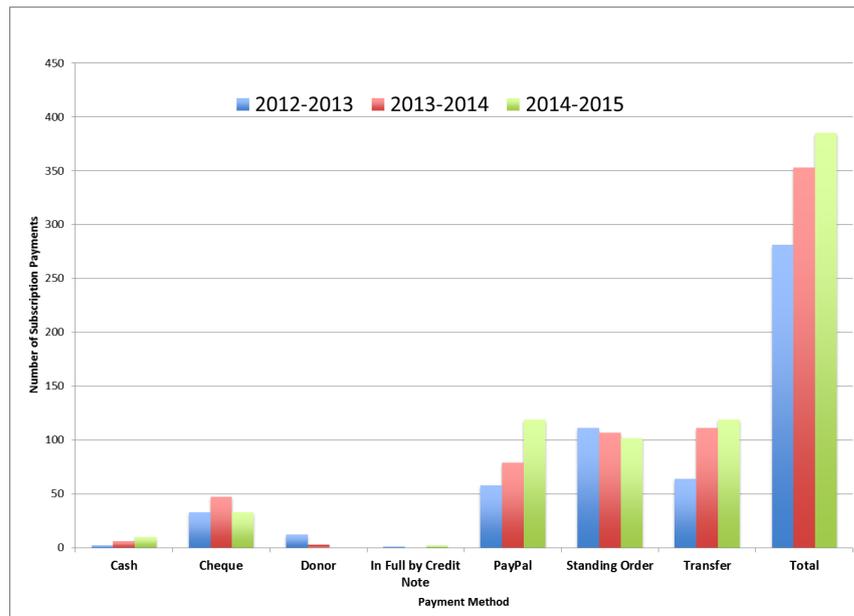
Answer: It costs ten times more to process a cheque than a payment on-line. The number of cheque payments had gone from 25% to 12% of the total payments.

Question: Last year, there was a proposal to have a book-all-events procedure. What happened?

Answer: John Little said that he had looked into having a book-all-events package but it would only work before the first event. It should be possible simply to tick to select each future event and he would look into that.

Question: Should subscriptions be raised?

Answer: We receive a number of Standing Orders for subscriptions. We can't change standing orders – each member has to change their own. it is more difficult to organize an increase. Before doing so we decided to increase income by introducing donations on which Gift Aid could accrue.



Expenditure

- We have spent less on printing, promotion and web than previously.
- The College had supported the summer party financially and this was likely to continue.

- Discussions were taking place with the College about offering membership of Friends to major donors to the College. Charity Commission rules prevents donors receiving goods or services which amount to more than 10% of their donation. Donors giving more than £2000 could be offered free membership
- Recommendation to seek sponsorship from others to fill the likelihood of Winton not continuing,

Election of officers

Stepping down

Riitta Soininen

Riitta was thanked for her contribution over many years.

Re-election:

Paresh Parmar

Alan Grant proposed and Travis Spurling seconded.

Unanimous approval

Election

Stewart Katz to the committee

Unanimous approval.

Trustee

It was proposed that Sarah Waterbury be elected Trustee

Unanimous approval.

Constitution

John Little clarified the implication of the change to the constitution as follows:

- allow a representative of the College to be on the management committee (Natasha Martineau) and for another member of College to serve as a Trustee (Sarah Waterbury).
All in favour of amendment
- The Trustees may appoint any person to act as a Trustee and may also be nominated as officers. Have added, any such appointment to be confirmed at a subsequent AGM.
- All in favour of amendments
- Every year a certain number of members can stand down. Each of the management committee and officers retire after three years other than organizational member representative.
All in favour of amendment

Any other business

The Chairman asked members to suggest ideas for lectures and events.

He also asked how many members would like to attend a strategy meeting organized with the College. About a third indicated that they would attend.

The AGM ended a few minutes before the start of the lecture from Professor Pedro Ferreira entitled *A perfect theory: a biography of General relativity*.